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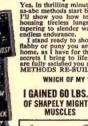
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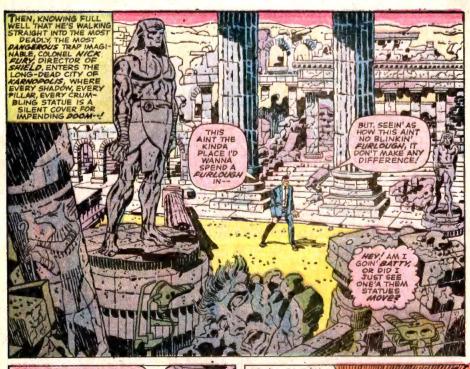


























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### MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

# EARTH-SHATTERING ESSAYS, ELOQUENT EPITHETS, AND EXAGGERATED ENDORSEMENTS WHICH YOU CAN EASILY LIVE WITHOUT!

ITEM: The response to Gentleman Gene Colan's amazing artwork on DAREDEVIL was so wildly enthusiastic that we've decided to let him continue drawing D.D.'s thrillers! This will give Jazzy Johnny Romita more time to concentrate on your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN, and to take a breather once in a while after drawing all those crrrrazy webs! Meanwhile, to make things easler for Gene, we've assigned the Sub-Mariner strip in this month's ASTONISH to a new bullpen luminary—and we'll be on pins and needles waiting for your opinion. There—if that isn't enough to confuse everybody, then we've goofed again!

ITEM: It looks as though Marvel really IS taking over the world! Those of you in the New York area have probably already noticed the way Channel 9 (WOR-TV) is blanketing the metropolitan zone with the Marvel message — splashing the news of our awingin' TV shows on everything from subway posters to milk cartons! (Grade A cartons only, we hope!) We assume that a zillion other stations through the free world, where the Marvel madness is about to be unleashed on the home screen, are doing likewise! But, if you find that YOUR local channel isn't marching along with us, do your duty, tiger—tell 'em they won't get a no-prize!

ITEM: Our six star-studded 25¢ Specials are probably all sold out by now, but we thought we'd mention 'am again anyway, in case you wanna try to prove us liars! For those of you who've been living in a well for the past few months, the titles are: FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL, SPIDERMAN SPECIAL, THOR SPECIAL, MARYLE SUPERMAN SPECIAL, THOR SPECIAL, MARYLE SUPERMAN SPECIAL, THOR SPECIAL, MARYLE SUPERMAN SPECIAL, and (ulp) MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL, and (ulp) MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL, give yourself two extra points—and, if you buy it, go to the head of the class)

ITEM: Smilin' Stan is so delighted with the way Wild Bill Evereth has been drawing Dr. Strange (in STRANGE TALES, natch), that the old hambo couldn't resist writing the newest mystical masterpiece himself, Also, for the benefit of the Johnny-Cometatelies among you, we've included a riotous resumé of much that has gone before, to bring you up to date. So, if you wanns see how wild a yarn can be, latch onto the start of Doc's newest adventure into necromancy—like right now, hear?

ITEM: It's time for you to meet some of our behind-the-scenes big-wigs who, though rarely mentioned in our cavortin' credits, are as much a part of the Marval mythos, as irving Forbush himself! Now pay attention—a quiz may follow! At the top of our heattle heap sits the king-of-the-hill, Merry Marty Goodman, publisher, and peerless purveyor of profound policy, puisating plaudits, and palpable pay-checks! When he speaks, we listen! When he frowns, we tremble! When he smles, we know that somewhere one of you has bought another Marvel mag! And, buried beneath a mountain of sales figures, we find Jovial Johnny Hayes, our circumventing circulation manager. You should see him fly into a frenzy—hurl himself into a fit of sheer hysteria—

whenever he learns of some deprived dealer who may not have received our Marvel mags on time! Wait, whom have we here? Who sits thus spinning records, watching TV, fondling plastic super-hero models, inspecting sweat-shirts and bubble gum cards with equal aplomb? 'Tis master of Marvel merchandising, who daringly dispenses our goodies to all the sesthetic areas beyond the printed pagel But, how remiss we would be if we failed to salute Admirable Arthur Jeffrey, keeper of our MMMS files, guardian of our club coupons, and defender of the faith! And what of Nifty Nancy Murphy? Shall we ever forget her soulful self-sacrifice in the face of our daily Marvel subscription list snafus? Or Delicious Doris Sieglar, the most walcome sight in all of Marveldom, for it is she, our benevolent bookkeeper, who doth dole out our salaries each week! So, let us pause for a moment in silent, somber homage as we ponder the grave and momentous import of that which hath been re-

ITEM: Judging by your mountain of mall, we've been made painfully aware that most of you true believers have expected a battle between Subbie and of Green Skin in the recent ishes of ASTONISH. It would have been easy for us to accomplish. We did toy with the idea. But then we decided against it - simply because it was such an obvious development. You know us-we'd rather do things the oddball way. We got a boot out of the idea of two super-powered cats being in the same area, at the same time, and NOT running into each other. It seemed to fit the usual mixed-up Marvel mold, as we saw it. However-now that we know how much you'd like Namor to tangle with our Jolly Green Giblet, we promise you this - sooner or later, somewhere, somehow, we'll DO it! But, in the meantime, send us your suggestions as to the proper artist for such an epic. Should it be Gentleman Gene? Wild Bill? Should we lasso Jolly Jack away from Asgard for a while? Or have you any other ideas? Thus do we await the thunderous voice of Marveldom! Thus do we command thee, in tones most stentorian -FACE FRONT, frantic one! The best is yet to bel



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AVENGERS #34: Introducing a sensationally different type of villain! This one man has power enough to bring the mighty Avengers to the brink of defaat! And, when he meets the Wasp-look out!

X-MEN #26: A cataclysmic, catastrophic combat, as the world's most unusual fighting team battles the reincamation of a Mayan god! And, one of the mighty mutants is gravely wounded—by a fellow X-Man! You must not miss it!

DAREDEVIL #22: A super-villain riot! New super-foes! Old super-menaces! A million twists and surprises as the Man Without Fear tries to defeat a foe who can't be besten! And, talk about action....]

THOR #134: We confidently predict that the stupefying theme of "The People Breeders" will be argued about and remembered as long as literature endures! Only Marvel would dare pit a Thunder God against—well, you'll see!

SUSPENSE #84: The most dramatic, unexpected event in the history of Iron Mani This one'll take your breath away! And, wait till you see Cap battle the Super-Adaptoid! It's pure Kirbyesque magic!

ASTONISH #86: What will the Sub-Mariner do with Warlord Krang and Lady Dorma dying before his eyes? As for the Hulk, he finally faces a fee he cannot frighten, a menace that even he cannot overcome!

SQT. FURY #36: The hard-hitting Howlers take on a trainload of Nazis in the heart of the towering Alps, as newcomer Frig Koenig must prove himself in battle—against his best friend! A categorically contemporary, controversial classic!

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Raymond Lee San Francisco, Cal. Henry Gross Rego Park, N. Y. Charles Kern Kansas, III. Dickle Hoban Ft. Worth, Tex. Bruce Ferguson El Paso, Tex. Joseph Jenkins Bossier City, Le. Gene Clark Nortonville, Ky. Randy Hartman Columbia City, ind. Dennis Iverson Minneapolis, Minn. Gary Campbell Yerseilles, Ky.

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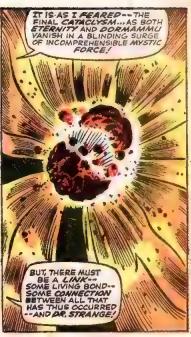




















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ID YOUR LETTERS TO THE MARVE COMICS GROUP 2nd FLOOR NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan,

Shield is a constant source of amazement to me. The quality of this superb magazine has been going steadily upward since Fury's first encounter with the mysterious world of espionage. And Jasper Sitwell is the most refreshing new personality to appear in comicdom for a long time. There's just one thing bugging me - I thought one of Shield's greatest assets was that its existence was unknown to the public. What gives? Another proof of the mighty Marvel originality was exhibited when we finally saw in STRANGE TALES #148 that Kaluu could do better than the Ancient One. In other words, we saw someone greater than the greatest! Now, that's something! So, no gripes, no problems, just keep up the good work, hear?

Jeff Wieselberg, 363 Briarcliffe Rd. Teaneck, N. J. 07666

We hear ya talkin', Jeff! But, are you sure we ever said that Shield's existence was unknown to the publie? It's kinda tough to conceal something like an orbiting Heli-Carrier, for one thing! Seems to us that people know about Shield, the way that they know about the CIA—it's just our heroes' modus operandi that's kept so hush-hush! Okay?

Dear Stan,

In the six years that I have read comics, I've never enjoyed any as much as Marvel. No other company's publications can compare with yours. One of your greatest achievements is Shield. This is, by far, your best series. I must say, though, that your villain, the Druid, was lousy; but Them is making up for it. I can hardly wait for the next issue. In #147 a fan wrote and said he would like to see Shield fight the Russian M.G.B. and K.V.D. The Russians have no such organizations, but they have had two M.V.D.'s and the present espionage system, the K.G.B. which stands for Komitet Gosudarstvennoye Bezopastinosti, which in English is the Committee for State Security. I kid thee not. 'Nuff said!

Brock Stimson, R.R. #1 Goderich, Ont., Canada

We hope you kid us not, Brockie boy, because we wouldn't know if you are serious or not! The only thing we were ever certain about, in regard to Russia, was the correct spelling of Khrushchev's name! (And then they went and deposed him, just when we had finally memorized that it contains three h's!) By the way, pal, if you can pronounce the three words that K.G.B. stands for, you can help yourself to any noprize in our large, air-conditioned gift-redemption nostorel

Dear Stan.

I've just finished STRANGE TALES #147 and it's great. The Shield story was your best since #145. The art, plot, and script were magnificent. You had Nick Fury at his greatest. Whatever you do, please don't change Jasper Sitwell, because he gives the stories some humor by being so grave. My brother and I think Them is the greatest thing since sliced bread. Keep them popping up after their episode in Shield is over. The Dr. Strange

story was good but a little stupid. If the building authorities let the F.F. have a huge tower loaded with a missile silo, nuclear equipment, and weird aircraft, why won't they let Dr. Strange have a few passageways and some weird scenery? Is the Ancient One 300 years old? If not, how did he know when Kaluu began his work? Well, it was a wonderful story anyway. No matter what happens, I'll always read Marvel. John Miller, 4101 Noble St. Zachary, La. 70791

That last sentence makes up for saying that our Dr. Strange yarn was a little stupid, Johnny! As for the Ancient One's age, we just haven't the nerve to ask him! Wouldn't you feel silly going up to a perfect stranger, and saying: "Scuse me, pops — are you three hundred years old?" — Especially when he doesn't look a day over 250!

Dear Stan,

I really enjoy STRANGE TALES! The addition of Nick Fury was a great idea, but the constant change of pencillers has prevented Shield from becoming a classic, So I was overjoyed to see that Don Heck was on pencils. His marvelous style really brings Fury to life. Don't let Jasper Sitwell shove Nick out of the picture. How about showing us what happened to the other Howlers, besides Dum Dum and Gabe? Dr. Strange is rapidly becoming one of my favorites. He sort of grows on you. May I raise a point? In issue #144, Roy Thomas scripted Dr. Strange, and in #145, Dennis O'Neil (a fine Irish namel) did the scripting. Does this mean that Stan is going to retire?? Are you going to flood Marvel with a staff of new writers? Anyway, your mags are better than ever, so I'll leave with the imperishable words of Irving Forbush — Make Mine Marvell

Anthony Riche, 2 St. John's Park, Mounttown Dun Laove, Co. Dublin, Ireland

And, in the impossible words of Smilin' Stan "What? Me retire?" By the hoary hosts of Hoggoth, Tony, our leader is just barely out of his second child-hood! There isn't a chance in the world of his retiring! He may get fired, or run out of town on a rail — but retire? Cheesee! (Besides, Rascally Roy and Dia-bolical Denny wouldn't let him! Smiley's the only one who knows how to spell the Crimson Bands of Cyttorak!)

NEXT ISH: This one's a real cliff-hanger! We've got about 24 hours before our next Shield yarn goes to the printer, and we still haven't figured out how to rescue Nick Furyl And, if we don't save ol' Nick, the s's no tellin' what'll happen to the rest of us when the Uverkill Horn is sounded! But, if you think things are any better for Dr. Strange, forget it! At least Fury knows what dimension he's in - but our mysterious Master of the Mystle Arts is liable to end up anywherel in short, STRANGE TALES #152 will either be the best we've ever produced - or the worst! Or else It'll foll somewhere in between! Now, no matter what happens, you can't say we didn't level with you! So, join us next ish to see how we make out - we have a hunch you'll be glad you did! 'Nuff saidi



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